Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 005472

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ORIGIN OPIC-06

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APPROVED BY: EB/IFD/OIA:RJSMITH
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R 092213Z JAN 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, EINV, AG

SUBJ: CONSIDERATION OF OPIC PROGRAM IN ALGERIA

1. PURSUANT TO CONSULTATION WITH AMBASSADOR PARKER IN WASHINGTON, OPIC REQUESTS EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF FEASIBILITY, POTENTIAL SCOPE FOR, AND UTILITY OF INITIATING OPIC PROGRAM IN ALGERIA. ASSESSMENT SHOULD INCLUDE (A) SCOPE, IF ANY, FOR U.S. PRIVATE EQUITY INVESTMENT,

WHETHER MINORITY OR MAJORITY, IN DESIGNATED SECTORS OF ALGERIAN ECONOMY; (B) GOA ATTITUDE TOWARD QUASI-EQUITY INVESTMENT BY U.S. COMPANIES IN FORM OF CONTRACTURAL JOINT VENTURES OF YUGOSLAV TYPE OR OF PRODUCTION-SHARING TYPE USED IN INDONESIAN OIL INDUSTRY; (C) GOA ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S. PRIVATE PARTICIPATION THROUGH LONG-TERM TECHNOLOGY LICENSING FOR EITHER FIXED OR VARIABLE FEE; (D) GOA ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE REGARDING PROVISION FOR INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES IN CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDING TURN-KEY) AND OTHER TECHNICAL SERVICE CONTRACTS WITH FOREIGN FIRMS; (E) FEASIBLITY OF CONCLUDING INVESTMENT GUARANTY BILATERAL AGREEMENT OF STANDARD FORM, COPY OF WHICH FURNISHED TO AMBASSADOR PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR POST.

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PAGE 02 STATE 005472

2. OPIC ASSUMES THAT PRIMARY UTILITY OF OPIC INSURANCE PROGRAM

IN ALGERIA SOULD BE IN ASSURING PROTECTION TO U.S. CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER TECHNICAL SERVICE CONTRACTORS AGAINST POLITICAL RISKS, THEREBY ATTRACTING BROADER U.S. PARTICIPATION IN BIDDING OR NEGOTIATION FOR AWARDS AND ENABLING U.S. FIRMS TO QUOTE MORE COMPETITIVE PRICES BY OMITTING CONTINGENCY AMOUNT FOR POLITICAL RISKS.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION, INCLUDING INDICATION OF PROPOSED TIMING OF APPROACH TO GOA.

DECON 6-30-75. KISSINGER

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